

I claim:

- 1 1. A processor-based system, comprising:
2 a performance control apparatus, comprising a selector, the selector being
3 adjustable, between a minimum setting and a maximum setting; and
4 a performance control application program with a graphical user interface,
5 the graphical user interface comprising at least one application program selector
6 associated with an application program loaded in the processor-based system,
7 wherein the application program selector is adjustable between a second
8 minimum setting and a second maximum setting;
9 wherein the at least one application program selector enables a user to modify
10 one or more performance criteria during operation of the application program
11 and the selector enables the user to modify the one or more performance criteria
12 during operation of the processor-based system.
- 1 2. The processor-based system of claim 1, wherein the one or more
2 performance criteria of the processor-based system include processor clock rate
3 and fan speed.
- 1 3. The processor-based system of claim 2, the selector of the performance
2 control apparatus further comprising first and second labels disposed at opposing
3 ends of the selector, the first label indicating the minimum setting and the
4 second label indicating the maximum setting.
- 1 4. The processor-based system of claim 3, the performance control
2 apparatus further comprising a display, the display having first and second
3 indicators, wherein the first indicator conveys a processor temperature and the
4 second indicator conveys a relative performance value of the processor-based
5 system.

1 5. The processor-based system of claim 4, wherein the processor clock rate
2 may exceed an optimum clock rate when the selector is adjusted beyond a
3 predetermined setting, wherein the predetermined setting is not the maximum
4 setting.

1 6. The processor-based system of claim 5, wherein the selector further
2 comprises a plurality of light-emitting diodes, wherein one or more of the
3 plurality of diodes sequentially lights up when the selector is adjusted.

1 7. The processor-based system of claim 6, wherein one or more of the
2 plurality of light-emitting diodes change color state when the selector is adjusted
3 beyond the predetermined setting.

1 8. The processor-based system of claim 1, wherein the one or more
2 performance criteria of the processor-based system include a processor clock
3 rate and the application program selector enables the user to adjust and set the
4 processor clock rate during execution of the application program.

1 9. The processor-based system of claim 8, wherein the one or more
2 performance criteria of the processor-based system include a fan speed and the
3 performance control application program further comprises a second application
4 program selector for enabling the user to adjust the fan speed during execution
5 of the application program.

1 10. The processor-based system of claim 1, further comprising a performance
2 control icon, accessible from within the application program, wherein the
3 performance control icon enables the user to modify one or more performance
4 criteria from within the application program.

1 11. A performance control apparatus, comprising:

2 a selector for designating one of several settings in a processor-based
3 system, wherein each setting is associated with one or more performance-related
4 criteria of the processor-based system; and
5 a display comprising an indicator, wherein the indicator visually conveys a
6 relative performance value for the processor-based system.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a first label and a second
2 label, the first and second labels being disposed adjacent to the selector,
3 wherein the first label designates a minimum setting of the selector and the
4 second label designates a maximum setting of the selector.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of light-emitting
2 diodes, the plurality of light-emitting diodes being disposed adjacent to the
3 selector, wherein one or more of the plurality of light-emitting diodes changes to a
4 first color when the selector is not at the minimum setting.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the performance-related criteria
2 comprise a processor clock rate.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the processor clock rate may exceed
2 an optimum clock rate.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein one or more of the plurality of light-
2 emitting diodes change to a second color when the processor clock rate exceeds
3 the optimum clock rate.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the performance-related criteria
2 comprise a processor clock rate and a fan speed.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the display further comprises a
2 second indicator, wherein the second indicator visually conveys a processor
3 temperature.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the performance-related criteria
2 comprise disk drive usage.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the performance-related criteria
2 comprise processor speed and fan speed, the apparatus further comprising a
3 second selector, wherein the selector controls the processor speed and the
4 second selector controls the fan speed.

1 21. A performance control application program, to be run on a processor-
2 based system, the performance control application program being viewable from
3 a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface comprising:
4 a list of one or more software programs loaded into the processor-based
5 system; and
6 a selector for altering a first performance-based characteristic of the
7 processor-based system;
8 wherein the first performance-based characteristic is altered while one software
9 program of the one or more software programs is running on the processor-
10 based system, but is not altered when the one software program is not running.

1 22. The performance control application program of claim 21, a portion of the
2 one or more software programs being collected as a group, wherein the first
3 performance-based characteristic is altered when any software program in the
4 group is running.

1 23. The performance control application program of claim 22, the graphical
2 user interface further comprising a second selector for altering a second

3 performance-based characteristic, wherein the first selector is independent of the
4 second selector.

1 24. A performance control application program, to be run on a processor-
2 based system, the performance control application program being viewable from
3 a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface comprising:
4 a file type grouping, the file type grouping specifying a plurality of file
5 extensions; and
6 a configuration profile associated with the file type grouping, wherein the
7 configuration profile specifies a set of performance criteria for the processor-
8 based system;
9 wherein the processor-based system automatically sets the configuration profile
10 when a file having one of the plurality of file extensions is run.

1 25. The performance control application program of claim 24, further
2 comprising:
3 a second file type grouping, the file type grouping specifying a second
4 plurality of file extensions, the second plurality of file extensions being distinct
5 from the first plurality of file extensions; and
6 a second configuration profile associated with the second file type
7 grouping, wherein the second configuration profile specifies a second set of
8 performance criteria for the processor-based system;
9 wherein the second set of performance criteria is different than the set of
10 performance criteria.

1 26. The performance control application program of claim 25, wherein the set
2 of performance criteria comprise adjusting the speed of one or more fans
3 operating within the processor-based system.

- 1 27. The performance control application program of claim 25, wherein the
- 2 second set of performance criteria comprise adjusting a processor clock rate.